Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00866 271253Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W
----------097286 271259Z /46
R 271150Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7414
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0866

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, UR, IC
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SOVIET PROFESSOR

REF: STATE 135832, MOSCOW 7865, REYKJAVIK 0743

1. ON JUNE 6 EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER LAWRENCE M. GROSSMAN WAS INVITED TO THE HOME OF AN ICELANDIC ACTRESS AND FOUND AMONG THE GUESTS PRESENT PROFESSOR VLADIMAR YAKUB. YAKUB INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS A LINGUIST AND A TELEVISION FILM MAKER AND STATED THAT HE WAS IN ICELAND MAKING FILMS FOR A WEEKLY TELEVISION PROGRAM WHICH IS SHOWN THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION ON SUNDAY EVENINGS WHICH HE HOSTS.

2. PROFESSOR YAKUB SPOKE WITH GROSSMAN IN GOOD BUT SOMEWHAT HALTING ENGLISH, APOLOGIZING AT FIRST BECAUSE HE SAID HE HAD NOT SPOKEN ENGLISH SINCE HE MET WITH A GROUP OF OFFICERS FROM THE KEFLAVIK NAVAL STATION DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO ICELAND 12 YEARS AGO. AS THE EVENING PROGRESSED, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT HE HAD VERY GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND WAS ONLY PRETENDING TO SPEAK IT POORLY. HE LATER STATED THAT HE WAS FLUENT IN NORWEGIAN, ICELANDIC, POLISH, AND RUSSIAN BUT APOLOGIZED AGAIN FOR HIS ENGLISH STATING THAT HIS DAUGHTER WHO IS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00866 271253Z

QUITE FLUENT IN ENGLISH ALWAYS CORRECTED HIS MISTAKES. POLITICS WAS RARELY DISCUSSED, BUT LIVELY CONVERSATION DEVELOPED ON SUCH TOPICS AS LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, SOVIET EDUCATION, ETC. WHAT GROSSMAN FOUND MOST IMPRESSIVE ABOUT PROFESSOR YAKUB WAS HIS ABSOLUTE FLUENT COMMAND OF CONVERSATIONAL ICELAND WHICH KEPT THE OTHER GUESTS, A GROUP OF

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE AND THEIR SPOUSES, ENTHRALLED, AND
WOULD DOUBTLESSLY MAKE HIM WELCOME AS A GUEST AT VIRTUALLY
ANY ICELANDIC SOCIAL GATHERING.

3. PROFESSOR YAKUB IS A TALL, THIN MAN, DARK HAIRED, WITH
A PROMINENT ALMOST ROMAN NOSE. HE WAS DRESSED IN A DARK
SUIT TAILORED IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS MID-1950'S
STYLE.
CHRISTENSEN

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TEACHERS, MEETING REPORTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Type: TE
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